

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned attorney thank Examiners Bhat and Barlow for their consideration during a telephonic interview of November 9, 2006. The proposed amendments were discussed relative to the outstanding rejections, as well as the present amendment and Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 14, and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,629,060, hereinafter referred to as the “ ‘060 Patent”. In the interview of 11/9/2006, the rejection was clarified to the undersigned attorney. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that he interpreted the system of the ‘060 Patent to be equivalent to the analytical instrument recited within the claims; i.e., that the recited analytical instrument is construed to include the analyzers 2, the control device 1, and the communications link/network 3 disclosed within the ‘060 Patent.

Applicants respectfully submit the claims as now amended make clear the distinctions between the claimed subject matter and that which is disclosed in the ‘060 Patent. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 14, and 19-24 be passed onto allowance.

As applicants have traversed the rejections raised by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that the present application be passed onto issuance.

Applicants include herewith a fee in the amount of \$395.00 is provided herewith for the RCE fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17(e). In the event any additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3381.

Respectfully submitted,

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